

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAJ-01

/069 W

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R 280659Z MAY 75

FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5173

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

DIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L HONG KONG 5863

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR MARR CH VS UR

SUBJECT:CHINESE CONCERN OVER POSSIBLE SOVIET USE OF VIETNAMESE
BASES

1. THE HONG KONG SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST MAY 28 CARRIED A
KYODO REPORT THAT PRC OFFICIALS HAVE TOLD A VISITING JAPANESE
DELEGATION IN PEKING THAT THE SOVIETS WERE PRESSING THE PRG
FOR USE OF FORMER US BASES IN SOUTH VIETNAM. THE CHINESE
REPORTEDLY SAID THIS WAS "EXTREMELY EMBARRASSING" TO THE
PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT IN SVN. AND DEMONSTRATED THAT SOVIET AID
HAS STRINGS ATTACHED. THE REPORT ALSO SAID THE CHINESE AS WELL
AS NORTH VIETNAM AND NORTH KOREA OPPOSE ANY SUCH SOVIET MOVE
INTO SOUTH VIETNAM. IF THE REPORT IS GENUINE, AND THE KYODO
MANAGER HERE ASSERTS IT IS AND SAYS THE SOURCE IS EITHER LIAO
CHENG-CHIH OR CHANG HSIANG-SHAN OF THE CHINA-JAPAN FRIENDSHIP
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SOCIETY, THEN IT IS A FURTHER SIGN OF CHINESE CONCERN FOR SUCH

MOVES BY THE SOVIETS. AMERICAN JOURNALISTS WHO LUNCHEd WITH HONG KONG COMMUNIST NEWSMEN LAST WEEK REPORT THEY WERE REPEATEDLY PRESSED FOR INFORMATION ON SOVIET INTEREST IN CAM RANH BAY.

3. IMPRESSION HERE IS THAT SPECULATION AND RUMORS ABOUT SOVIET MOVES FOR BASES IN SOUTH VIETNAM HAVE AROUSED CHINESE CONCERN AND THAT PEKING IS ATTEMPTING TO SMOKE OUT DISCLAIMERS FROM MOSCOW AND HANOI. PEKING MAY SEE SUCH RUMORS AS EMBARRASSING TO MOSCOW AND HANOI, BUT THIS KIND OF REACTION FROM THE CHINESE WOULD ALSO POINT TO WHERE THEY HURT IN THE AFTERMATH OF THE COMMUNIST VICTORY IN INDOCHINA.
CROSS

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